

rates in traffic are usually 20 – 50 times higher than in my native Denmark whether measured by number of vehicles, kilometres of road, or passenger kilometres travelled. The death toll *per capita* is usually at twice that of Denmark despite the fact that on any given day less than 10% of the population is inside a vehicle.

When on the road in Africa you are either captive in some else's vehicle, and that is that, or you are driving very carefully in your own vehicle, but still never sure what is around the next corner. One firm step, though, can be taken to minimize danger: Never drive at night. My wife and I have had a pact on this since 1988 — and we have stuck to it.

How I wish my Norwegian friend and colleague, Jan Kielland had stuck to our resolution. In the dead of night of 9 October 1995, on a road in Tanzania, he hit an unlit and unmarked broken-down truck and was killed on the spot.— TORBEN B. LARSEN, Bangladesh, World Bank, 1818 H. Street N. W., Washington D. C., 20433, USA.

***Longitarsus fowleri* Allen (Col.: Chrysomelidae): an anomaly concerning foodplants and an unpublished Dorset record**

It is fairly well established that the flea-beetle *Longitarsus fowleri* has foodplants in two different families, namely Labiatae and Dipsacaceae – an unusual state of affairs in a non-polyphagous species. Whereas the former of the two is a favourite *Longitarsus* host-group second only to the Compositae, the latter of them appears quite exceptional. The evidence in its favour being hitherto somewhat slight, a relatively recent occurrence of *L. fowleri* at Culver, Isle of Wight, “off *Dipsacus* 7.v.1988” (D. Appleton, MS) serves to strengthen it. Further, the late A. M. Easton met with the same species in some numbers at Fleet, near Weymouth, Dorset, on the same plant, in spring – year unknown to me (about 1980?) and record unpublished.

I am not aware of any specially close affinity between the two plant families in question. *Dipsacus* (Teasel) is so conspicuous that it is unlikely to have been overlooked at the Box Hill, Riddlesdown, and Otford sites, had it been present.— A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

The Dotted Chestnut *Conistra rubiginea* (D. & S.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Sussex

This brief summary of the history of *Conistra rubiginea* in Sussex – published in much more detail in 1999 in *A Revised History of the Butterflies and Moths of Sussex* – supplements the highly interesting report of the moth's county by county colonisation of south-east England, apparently during the 1990s (*Antea*, 130).

The Dotted Chestnut has always been a West Sussex specialty. Even so, only half a dozen colonies were publicly known to the rapacious Victorian collectors, these being situated across the vice-county. The insect was always a great scarcity, but after 1902 it then went completely unrecorded for half a century. The first sign of recovery came in 1954, when A. J. Wightman encountered the moth in his home village of Pulborough. This report, and sightings made elsewhere during the next few decades, suggest that a southerly invasion from south-west Surrey into north-west